

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An airbag assembly comprising:

a glove box;

a knee airbag;

a housing encasing the knee airbag, the housing being positioned proximate the glove box; and

a front member that covers the glove box and the housing, wherein the front member does not displace toward the vehicle interior during deployment, and wherein the airbag assembly is constructed such that during a crash, the airbag will deploy into an inflated configuration regardless of whether a glove box door is in an open position or a closed position.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the front member comprises a glove box door and an airbag door.

Claim 3 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the front member comprises a glove box door that covers both the glove box and the housing.

Claim 4 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the assembly further comprises a hinge.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An airbag assembly as in claim 4 wherein the hinge ~~is~~ may be positioned on a vehicle's instrument panel below a bottom edge of the housing.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 4 wherein the hinge is attached to a top edge of the housing.

Claim 7 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the front member comprises a tear seam.

Claim 8 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a latch mechanism that is attached to the front member.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the housing is in integral with the glove box.

Claim 10 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the assembly is constructed such that the knee airbag will deploy substantially upward when installed onto a vehicle.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the assembly is constructed such that the housing does not move when the glove box is opened.

Claim 12 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the assembly is constructed such that the housing will move when the glove box door is opened.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the glove box is attachable to a vehicle's instrument panel via one or more U-brackets.

Claim 14 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 further comprising an inflator for deploying the knee airbag into an inflated configuration.

Claim 15 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a mounting bracket attached to the housing.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the assembly further comprises a middle panel positioned behind the front member.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 16 wherein the middle panel includes one or more ribs.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 16 wherein the middle panel has an aperture positioned in front of the housing.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 16 wherein the middle panel is held between the glove box and the front member via one or more extending tabs.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 19 wherein the extending tabs pass through one or more slots in the middle panel.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 16 wherein the middle panel is held between the housing and the front member via one or more extending tabs.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 21 wherein the extending tabs pass through one or more slots in the middle panel.

Claim 23 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the front member comprises a glove box door and an aperture.

Claim 24 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 23 further comprising a cover sized and configured to cover the aperture.

Claim 25 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 24 wherein the cover includes one or more flanges.

Claim 26 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 25 wherein the flanges engage holes in the front member and openings in the housing.

Claim 27 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 25 wherein the flanges engage one or more engaging tanges that are positioned on the housing.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 25 wherein the cover includes a tear seam that is positioned on the flanges.

Claim 29 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 24 wherein the cover includes a tear seam that is positioned on a front panel of the cover.

Claim 30 (cancelled)

Claim 31 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the deployment of the airbag into an inflated configuration moves the glove box door into a closed position.

Claim 32 (currently amended): An airbag assembly comprising:
a glove box;
a knee airbag;
a housing encasing the knee airbag, wherein the entirety of the housing is positioned below the entirety of the glove box; and
a front member that covers the glove box and the housing, wherein the front member comprises a glove box door and an aperture, further comprising a cover sized and configured to cover the aperture, wherein the cover includes one or more flanges.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 wherein the front member comprises a glove box door and an airbag door.

Claim 34 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 wherein the front member comprises a glove box door that covers both the glove box and the housing.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 further comprising a hinge that is attached to a top edge of the housing.

Claim 36 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 further comprising a hinge that is positioned on a vehicle's instrument panel below a bottom edge of the housing.

Claim 37 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 wherein the front member comprises a tear seam.

Claim 38 (currently amended): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 wherein the housing is ~~in~~ integral with the glove box.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 wherein the assembly further comprises a middle panel that is positioned behind the front member and in front of the housing and the glove box.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the middle panel includes one or more ribs.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the middle panel has an aperture positioned in front of the housing.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the middle panel is held between the glove box and the front member via one or more extending tabs.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the middle panel is held between the housing and the front member via one or more extending tabs.

Claims 44-46 (cancelled)

Claim 47 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 46 wherein the flanges engage one or more engaging tanges positioned on the housing.

Claim 48 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 45 wherein the cover includes a tear seam.

Claim 49 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 32 wherein the airbag assembly is constructed such that during a crash, the airbag will deploy into an inflated configuration regardless of whether a glove box door is in an open position or a closed position.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 49 wherein the deployment of the airbag into an inflated configuration moves the glove box door into a closed position.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly comprising:
a glove box;
a knee airbag;
a housing encasing the knee airbag, the housing being positioned below the glove box;
a front member that covers the glove box and the housing;
an inflator in fluid communication with the knee airbag; and
a middle panel positioned inside the front member.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the middle panel includes one or more ribs.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the middle panel has an aperture positioned adjacent to the housing.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the middle panel is held between the glove box and the front member via one or more extending tabs.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the middle panel is held between the housing and the front member via one or more extending tabs.

Claim 56 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the front member comprises a glove box door and an airbag door.

Claim 57 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the front member comprises a tear seam.

Claim 58 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the housing is integral with the glove box.

Claim 59 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 51 wherein the airbag assembly is constructed such that during a crash, the airbag will deploy into an inflated configuration regardless of whether a glove box door is in an open position or a closed position.

Claim 60 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 59 wherein the deployment of the airbag into an inflated configuration moves the glove box door into a closed position.

Claim 61 (currently amended): An airbag assembly comprising:

a glove box;
a knee airbag;
a housing that encases the knee airbag, the housing being positioned below the glove box;
and

a front member comprising a glove box door and aperture, the glove box door being positioned in front of the glove box and the aperture being positioned in front of the housing; and
a cover positioned over the aperture, the cover being attached to the housing, wherein the front member does not displace toward the vehicle interior during deployment, and wherein the airbag assembly is constructed such that during a crash, the airbag will deploy into an inflated configuration regardless of whether a glove box door is in an open position or a closed position

Claim 62 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 61 wherein the cover includes one or more flanges.

Claim 63 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 62 wherein the flanges are designed to engage holes in the front member and openings in the housing.

Claim 64 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 62 wherein the flanges engage one or more engaging tanges positioned on the housing.

Claim 65 (withdrawn): An airbag assembly as in claim 62 wherein the cover includes a tear seam positioned on the flanges.

Claim 66 (original): An airbag assembly as in claim 61 wherein the cover includes a tear seam positioned on a front panel of the cover.

Claim 67 (cancelled)

Appl. No. 10/725,280

Response dated July 11, 2006

Reply to Office Action of April 11, 2006

Claim 68 (currently amended): An airbag assembly as in claim 61 67 wherein the deployment of the airbag into an inflated configuration moves the glove box door into a closed position.